

BUSINESS MEN DEFINE POSITION

Advocate New Department
of Commerce.

WANT BETTER CONSULAR SERVICE

Improved Banking Facilities
in South America.

MEET HERE AGAIN IN 1903

National Board of Trade Adjourns.
President Blanchard Randall, of
Baltimore, Installed.

The National Board of Trade, which has been holding its annual session in the Shoreham Hotel, adjourned at the conclusion of this morning's meeting to reassemble in Washington again in January 1903.

After adjournment a delegation called at the White House and was received by President Roosevelt.

The new president of the board, Mr. Blanchard Randall, of Baltimore, arrived from that city this morning, and was inducted into office. On taking his seat as the presiding officer of the board, Mr. Randall made an address, during which he said:

"If the National Board of Trade is not to be national, there is no reason why it should exist. I feel, however, we can give an impetus to our organization that will make its influence felt. We should exert an influence on national events second to none except Congress."

For a Department of Commerce.

The standing committee on a Department of Commerce, Mr. Alden Spear, of Boston, chairman, submitted its report advocating the creation of such a department.

The committee reported that it had, through its chairman, kept in touch with Senator Frye, chairman of that committee, and had written to President Roosevelt giving him a full statement of what had been done by them and urging the immediate creation of such a department. The report was adopted as read.

Currency and Banking.

The standing committee on currency and banking, Mr. Charles Parsons, of St. Louis, chairman, reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"Whereas the balance of trade with Mexico, Central America, and South America is now against the United States; and

"Whereas it is manifestly to our advantage to exert every legitimate means to promote a more equal exchange of business with the said countries; and

"Whereas our European competitors have established banks in these countries that not only discount bills of exchange and make advances on shipments, but also furnish reliable information relative to the financial standing and reputation of the merchants; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That Congress be requested to investigate this subject, having in view the establishment of requisite banking facilities to promote and encourage commerce with foreign countries."

"Whereas no material injustice results to holders of mutilated and abraded gold coin from the refusal of the Government to redeem it except at its proportional bullion value, but as serious injustice does result to holders of abraded or mutilated silver coin, which has been received at its full coinage value; therefore,

"Resolved, That Congress be urged to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem, at his discretion, such abraded or mutilated silver coin at a valuation proportional to its original weight."

Mr. James Richard Carter, of Boston, chairman of the permanent committee on consular service, presented a resolution strongly urging Congress to pass at an early date such legislation as was necessary to reorganize our Consular Service on the lines of the bill now before it, demanding greater efficiency, permanency of tenure, with compensation sufficient to attract agents of such technical education as would be competent to care for the vast interests of this country. This resolution was adopted.

The president will appoint an executive committee of five members, which will meet this afternoon.

CUMMINGS MAKES A PASSIONATE APPEAL

Warmly Supports the Proposed Appropriation
of \$500,000 for a Military Post
in the Philippines.

The House again this morning discussed the Philippine question under the urgent deficiency bill. The agreement to Representative Cannon's amendment to appropriate \$500,000 for shelter and protection of the soldiers in the Philippines, did not end the debate on the subject.

A feature of the proceedings today was the impassioned speech of Representative Cummings (Dem., N. Y.) in which he took his party colleagues severely to task for opposing the appropriation.

He began by saying that after he voted for the amendment yesterday some Democrats had called upon him to sit down. He had replied that he hoped he would be paralyzed if he failed to vote to protect the lives of American soldiers.

"I made that remark on the spur of the moment," said Mr. Cummings, "and now I glory in it, when I reflect." (Republican applause.)

The Secretary of War had asked for this appropriation, he said, because the rain season was coming on, and the soldiers must have shelter.

"I would be untrue to every drop of

THE IRRIGATION QUESTION. IT'S "UP TO" UNCLE SAM.



THE CENTRE OF LOCAL POPULATION

It Is Near Sixth and H Streets
Northwest.

ANNOUNCED BY CENSUS BUREAU

The centre of population in the District of Columbia, as computed by Geographer Sloane of the Census Office, was announced today.

It is located at a point sixty feet east of the centre of Sixth Street northwest, and 170 feet north of the centre of H Street, falling on premises 511 Sixth Street northwest.

KNOW NOTHING OF FORGERY.

Bank of England Officials' Cable for
Particulars.

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The officials of the London and Westminster Bank and the Bank of England, as well as the authorities of Scotland Yard and the city police, say they know nothing of the forged bank notes of the Bank of England which have been presented for payment in New York.

The Bank of England has cabled to New York for particulars. Mr. H. Smith, manager of the London and Westminster Bank, is of the opinion that it is a stamp forgery. The bank never stamps notes; it always retires old notes and gives its customers new ones, except in denominations of \$1,000. The officials of the bank and the police are very much interested in the matter, as it is the first case of this kind of any importance in years.

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Miss Stone Probably a Willing Captive.

By CHEKIB BEY, Turkish Minister to the United States.

I should not like to say with any degree of positiveness, of course, that Miss Stone actually allowed herself to be willingly captured for the sake of bringing publicity upon the display of the Macedonian revolutionary edict. However, I think it is possible and even probable that such is the case. I was not aware that my countrymen held such a view of the matter until I read it in The Times this morning.

I have received practically no official communications regarding the case, from the first. What information I have secured, aside from the news which has been placed before the American public by the daily press, has come through personal correspondence.

I had been informed that the Turks were assisting in the negotiations to secure the release of Miss Stone, but I am totally ignorant of the exact nature of their efforts. The matter has been manipulated by the American State Department and the American Legation in Constantinople, so I understand, and therefore I have taken no official part in the affair.

PORTLAND, OREGON, WANTS EXPOSITION

Will Ask Congress for Goodly
Appropriation.

THE LEWIS-CLARK CENTENNIAL

Now there is another fair in prospect which will ask Congress for a good-sized appropriation this winter.

It has been organized by the city of Portland and State of Oregon, and is designed to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the famous expedition of Captains Lewis and Clark from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia in Thomas Jefferson's first administration.

The promoters of the new exposition or fair do not consider it as in any way competing or interfering with the Louisiana Purchase Fair, for it will occur a year later, and the Oregon territory was never a part of the Louisiana purchase.

The Lewis and Clark fair has organized with \$500,000 capital, and the corporation is headed by Mr. Henry W. Corbett, who was United States Senator thirty years. A fair asking Government aid have been coming pretty thick and fast of late years. Atlanta, Nashville, Omaha, Buffalo, Charleston, and St. Louis make a rather long and rapid procession.

IRISH PUT BOYCOTT ON THE CORONATION

Pledge Sligo's Mayor Not to
Take Part.

ENGLISH FAVOR NOT WANTED

DUBLIN, Jan. 23.—The Sligo Corporation passed a resolution this afternoon that the mayor of the town for the present year should be required to pledge himself that during his term of office he would not accept any favor from any representative of the English Government in Ireland, and that he would not take part in the ceremonies in connection with the coronation.

The new mayor, Alderman Keenan, said he was in thorough accord with the resolution and gave the pledge required.

FRANCE VS. MOROCCO.

Former Country May Make Demonstration at Tangier.

CANNES, France, Jan. 23.—The cruiser Charlemagne has been ordered to Tangier. It is believed that a French demonstration will be made against Morocco because of the murder there of two French officers.

COMMISSION IS PROBING WRECK

State's Investigation of Tunnel
Disaster Begun.

A TECHNICAL EXAMINATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The State Railroad Commissioners this morning began their enquiry into the causes of the Park Avenue Tunnel disaster of January 5, in which seventeen lives were lost.

The commissioners met in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, and had before them a number of the officers and employees of the New York Central Railroad. There was also present a delegation from the towns and cities of West Chester county, the members of which had attended the enquiry for the purpose of urging the commissioners to take action at once to compel the railroad company to make the tunnel safe.

Chairman Dunn, of the commission, said that the enquiry would be more in the nature of a technical examination to find out how the present system of signals in the tunnel could be improved.

The commission has under consideration one system now in use on the electric road in the Boston tunnel. Under its operation a train may run past a danger signal, but if it does so, the brakes are automatically set. Whether such a system could be applied to the road here is a question which the experts will be asked to solve.

The enquiry before the State Railroad Commissioners is likely to last for some time and will be much more technical in its character than that conducted by the District Attorney before the Coroner's jury.

Coroner Scholer will resume the inquest in the coroner's office tomorrow morning, when Mr. Jerome will call upon President Newman, of the Central Road, to tell what he knows about the tunnel conditions.

The District Attorney says he will fix the responsibility for the accident, if it is possible.

Track Manager Franklin will be recalled and it is probable that the coroner's jury will bring in their verdict tomorrow night, and the District Attorney, early next week, will present all the facts in his possession to the grand jury for investigation.

Transfer of Real Estate.

The Washington Ice Company, a new corporation, has purchased 22,500 feet of ground on the north side of N Street, between North Capitol and First Streets northwest.

LIBERALS PREPARE TO STORM COLON

Cipher Despatch Received From the Isthmus
Today Indicates That a Big and Probably
Decisive Battle Will Soon Occur on the
Atlantic Side.

THE MARIETTA ORDERED TO THE SCENE

General Barrera at Paraiso Awaiting Re-enforcements, and as
Soon as They Come Up Will Begin Assault Upon the
Little City—Plan of the Liberals is to Take Colon, and
Thereby Cut Panama Off and Force Its Surrender.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—A cipher despatch received in this city today by Dr. J. Restrepo, the Charge d'Affaires of the Colombian Liberal Junta here, announces that Gen. Frederico Barrera is at Paraiso, awaiting re-enforcements from Nombre de Dios, Cede and Boca del Tozo, and that as soon as these arrive, Colon is to be attacked.

A detail of troops forming part of Gen. Sergio Perez's army, is reported at Emperador, on the line of the Panama Railway, and at Matichin, which is half way across the Isthmus.

A Liberal force, under Gen. Victoriano Lorenzo, is expected to effect a junction with the Perez detachment.

Plan of Campaign.

Panama at present is not to be attacked. General Barrera is content with keeping the Conservatives on the defensive, and in diverting the troops of Generals Ortiz, Castro, and Garcia from the real objective point, which at present is Colon. By occupying Colon the Liberals will prevent a landing of possible re-enforcements needed at Panama.

On the Atlantic, the Conservatives, with the gunboat General Pinzon, hold the sea, while on the Pacific, the insurgent vessels Padilla, the Darien and the Salta, effectively prevent any re-enforcements from reaching Panama by sea. Colon taken, Panama will be cut off from all sources of supplies, and soon compelled to surrender.

Ammunition for Rebels.

In another despatch received by the Liberals today, General Clodomiro Castillo and Jose Maria Castillo acknowledge receipt of 500,000 cartridges sent more than a fortnight ago.

The brothers Castillo also announce that

they have invaded the Bolivar province. The object of this expedition is to furnish the guerrilla troops overrunning Bolivar province with ammunition. According to this despatch, the Conservatives in this region are reduced to the towns of Santa Marta and Ciénaga, the rest being in the undisputed possession of the Liberals.

Government Buys Warships.

The Colombian Government has completed arrangements for the purchase of a French gunboat, and it is known that two-thirds of the purchase price has already been paid over into the hands of the Colombian Charge d'Affaires in Paris.

Much mystery surrounds the purchase and Consul General Brizard refused to make known the name, tonnage or armament of the new Colombian war craft, or the purchase price. The gunboat is to be manned by French officers and gunners, and will most likely make her appearance on the Pacific coast of Colombia, where she would be much needed.

The Liberals have opened negotiations toward the purchase of a new torpedo boat with which to oppose the General Pinzon on the Atlantic, but the same reticence is observed at the headquarters of the junta as at the Colombian consulate on the subject.

American Boat for Colon.

Secretary Long today, at the request of the State Department, ordered the Marietta to Colon for the purpose of protecting American lives and property. The Marietta is now at Culebra Island, P. R., the new United States naval station. No other vessels will be ordered to the Isthmus at present.

AMENDMENTS TO CODE CONSIDERED

House District Committee Favorably Reports
Bills Correcting Defects—Questions
of Juries and Tax Sales.

The House District Committee met today and considered three local measures. Representative Jenkins was authorized to favorably report his bill amending the District Code relative to the drawing of jurors.

The amendment provides that immediately after its approval the clerk of the court shall proceed to draw from the jury box the names of twenty-three persons to serve as Police Court jurors. The service courts, whose service shall terminate on the Monday preceding the first Tuesday of next April; also authorizing the clerk to draw the names of twenty-six persons to serve as police court jurors. The service of the latter is to end on the last Saturday of the month. These provisions are made necessary by the defects in the code as regards the drawing of jurors.

The committee agreed to an amendment to strike out the second section which provides as follows:

"Nor shall the provisions of chapter sixty of this code nor any other provisions thereof in any manner affect the term, tenure, or compensation of any person filling any office or appointment under laws existing prior to its passage, but such persons shall continue in the exercise of the duties of such office, according to their respective commissions and appointments, except as is otherwise provided in said code."

Taxes and Tax Sales.

In regard to Mr. Babcock's amendment to the act affecting taxes and tax sales in the District, the committee authorized the sub-committee on judiciary to examine the amendment and report on the same to the House. It stipulates that unless the owner of property sold for arrearage of taxes shall come forward within thirty days such property shall be sold after being duly advertised.

Extension of Sixteenth Street.

The committee informally discussed the matter of Sixteenth Street extension, but arrived at no decision upon the subject.

POOR CLERK GETS A LEGACY OF \$216,000

Undertaker's Employee Notified that a Fortune is His.

A WINDFALL FROM IRELAND

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 23.—Charles M. Starrs, an undertaker, employed by the New York and Brooklyn Casket Company, De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn, until a few weeks ago dependent upon his wages for a livelihood, can now end his days in luxury.

A week ago he received a communication from a legal firm in New York that he had fallen heir to \$216,000 in Ireland through a series of deaths.

Will Go to Ireland.

He will sail for his mother country accompanied by William C. Fisher, another Brooklyn man, and a close friend. The inherited property belongs to one of the oldest families in County Galway, Ireland, the McCormicks, of which Starrs' mother was one. Originally it was not nearly so large as now, having been increased through the skillful handling of a shrewd Irish lawyer, steward of the estate, who still handles it.

From Great-Grandfather.

Its last possession was the great-grandfather of Starrs on his mother's side. This particular McCormick outlived all of his many children, excepting one, and his grandchildren as well, Charles M. Starrs being the only exception.

The Starrs came to America when the

children were very young and settled in New York. The parents died, and the boys, too, with the exception of Charles.

When the estate came up for settlement the lawyers learned the whereabouts of Charles M. Starrs.

An aunt, Ann McCormick, was also found. She is said to be dying at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Starrs has had a struggle for existence, but he is modest and unassuming. He first thought his newly acquired wealth was a joke.

CONFERR ON SCHLEY APPEAL.

Secretary Long and Mr. E. P. Hanna
at the White House.

An important conference concerning the appeal of Rear Admiral Schley from the conclusions of the Court of Enquiry was held at the White House, today, between President Roosevelt, Secretary Long, and Mr. E. P. Hanna, solicitor of the Judge Advocate General's office of the Navy Department. Mr. Hanna was assistant judge advocate of the Schley Court.

The utmost reticence in regard to the nature of the conference is being shown by those who know what passed at the White House, but it is learned that the President made many inquiries and indicated an intention to investigate personally the contentions made in the appeal. He will do this work carefully and no executive action may be expected for a long time.

Wife Withdraws Charge.

Mrs. Edward Johnson, wife of the ex-policeman who was arrested Wednesday night, charged with assaulting and attempting her life, appeared before the Assistant District Attorney today and withdrew her charge. She stated that it was made in haste and that her husband was in a state of delirium when he made the alleged attack, and he is now ill in bed. The matter has been dropped.